

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 AGR-20 INT-08 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 271707Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7123

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, US, CG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU-REYNOLDS MEETING MARCH 26

REF: KINSHASA 2696

1. REYNOLDS ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR RICE AND KEATING CALLED ON MOBUTU MARCH 26. LATTER HAD BEEN WELL BRIEFED ON REYNOLDS' PROPOSAL (REFTEL) AND WAS ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. MOBUTU SAID DESPITE ZAIRIANIZATION MEASURES TAKEN LAST NOVEMBER, REYNOLDS' VISIT WAS PROOF US INVESTORS STILL INTERESTED IN ZAIRE. ALTHOUGH MEASURES HAD BEEN DENOUNCED IN FOREIGN PRESS, THEY HAD TO BE TAKEN FOR BENEFIT OF COUNTRY. ENTERPRISES AFFECTED WERE THOSE ZAIRIANS COULD RUN. IN COLONIAL TIMES BELGIANS HAD GIVEN LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR ZAIRIANS TO BECOME EVEN SMALL SHOPKEEPERS. MOBUTU PROMISED NO AMERICAN INDUSTRIES IN ZAIRE HAD BEEN OR WOULD BE AFFECTED BY ZAIRIANIZATION. HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN ZAIRE AND NOTED RESPONSE OF US INVESTORS TO HIS 1970 INVITATION HAD BEEN GOOD.

3. PRESIDENT REYNOLDS SAID PROPOSED JOINT VENTURE COULD
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MAKE ZAIRE ONE OF WORLD'S MAJOR PRODUCERS OF ALUMINUM

THEREBY LESSENING DEPENDENCE ON COPPER. REYNOLDS PROPOSING CREATE INTEGRATED ALUMINUM INDUSTRY FROM MINE TO FINISHED PRODUCTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ZAIRE. ALTHOUGH BAUXITE DEPOSITS NEAR INGA NOT SUITABLE FOR EXPORT, REYNOLDS THOUGHT THEY COULD BE PROCESSED LOCALLY. HE STRESSED NECESSITY TO HAVE LOW RATE ESTABLISHED FOR INGA POWER.

4. MOBUTU SAID THAT REYNOLDS' PROPOSAL WAS EXACTLY WHAT ZAIRE WANTED AT THIS STAGE. EARLIER OFFERS BY ALUMINUM COMPANIES HAD BEEN AIMED AT PRODUCTION OF INGOTS FOR EXPORT.

5. REYNOLDS SAID HE WAS ALSO READY TO COOPERATE WITH GOZ IN OTHER FIELDS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, PLASTICS, MINING EQUIPMENT. MOBUTU EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THESE IDEAS BUT HAD TO TERMINATE MEETING AT THIS POINT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: METAL INDUSTRY, ALUMINUM, AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINSHA02697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740070-0761
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740312/aaaaaknl.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINSHASA 2696
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU-REYNOLDS MEETING MARCH 26
TAGS: EMIN, US, CG, REYNOLDS ALUMINUM COMPANY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005